Did gov't agents recycle evidence vs bombers?



PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hong Kong chief executive expected to quit next week

Thursday, March 3, 2005 • 36 pages / vol. 20 / no. 85 • website: www.inq7.net

Pork behind budget OK

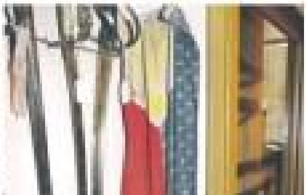
Villar's no bicam idea irks House leadership





China, RP's new Big Brother, pledges military aid

RP flag in SanFo real but not original



Colonel's death may save lives of soldiers in combat

216 Filipinos detained in 1st round of Malaysia crackdown

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE

Weathermen warn of El Niño

RP, US soldiers mark Corregidor liberation

SMC rights offer stymied by court case

Solon calls for transparency on Marcos wealth

By Philip C. Tubeza



Palace rejects new call for lifting of moratorium on death penalty

Southwoods takes lead by 2; Del Monte second





Chot looking far and wide for prospects

Erap's Muslim foundation funds not audited, Sandigan told

[illegible]

Peping Francisco, 55

[illegible]

Palace to take tax refund case to SC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

'I WAS NEVER PREGNANT'

Woman sues Gonzalez accuser of libel

Missing for 4 years, Pinay comes home in a coffin

Corrections



DAVIDE

Davide to keynote Women's Day

Southwoods takes lead



Hilarious Henry

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza



Pork behind budget OK



Did gov't agents...



Colonel's death may save ...

Palace to Sulu mayors: Stay put

Ateneo Law wins mock-court regionals, eyes world title defense

THE ATENEO Law School team successfully defended its championship in the Jessup Cup, prized trophy of the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. The regional finals, which would determine the team that would represent the Philippines in the world competition in Washington, D.C., were held at the National Center for Culture and the Arts in Intramuros, Manila, on Feb. 19. It was participated in by the Ateneo Law School, UP College of Law and the UST College of Law.

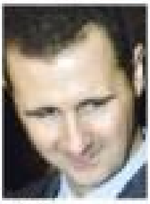
Every year, representatives from the most prestigious law schools around the world (which include Harvard Law School, Oxford, National University of Singapore and the University of Sydney) vie for the honor, competing in a mock-court format simulating the International Court of Justice. Each team argues either for or against a specific problem, before a panel of the most distinguished scholars in international law.

The Ateneo Jessup team, consisting of Joseph Anthony Lopez, Cristina Carlos Gadille, Nelson Ilpuban, Teresa Cruz and Angel Lora Go, coached by 2004 Jessup Champion Alfred Bahn, swept all three categories in the regional finals: best team, best oralist (JA Lopez), and best memorials. The team is now preparing for the world competitions starting March 22, and with every intention to successfully defend its 2004 crown.

The WORLD

World powers demand Palestinian crackdown

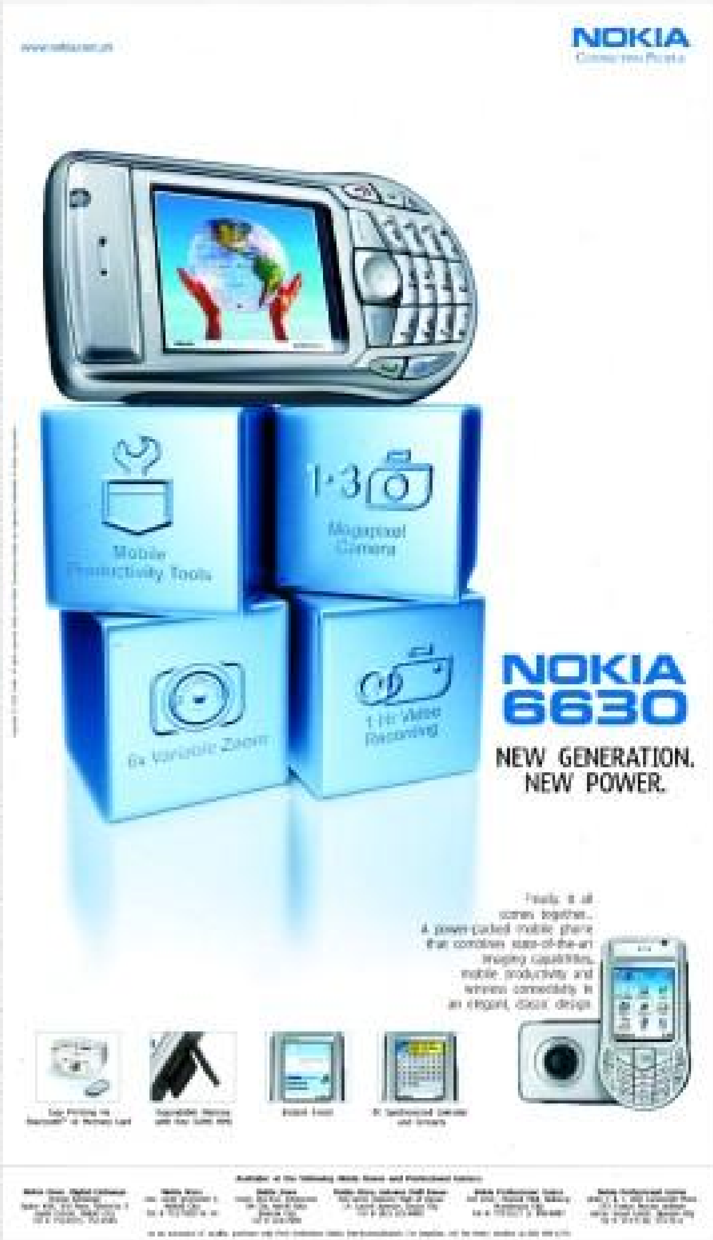
Syria set to pull out troops from Lebanon



AL-ASSAD

INCB: Drug menace spreading through Asia Pacific

US abolishes death penalty for minors



WorldBriefs

Car bombs kill 10 in Iraq

French reporter begs for life

No death penalty for Bashir

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Overdue review

LAME-DUCK Energy Secretary Vince Perez, who can afford to ruffle feathers now that he's bowing out of the government service, has convened a group to review the Oil Deregulation Law. He has, for what it's worth, the rhetorical backing of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The committee has 90 days to study the law and make recommendations to the President.

EDITORIAL

Perez himself has indicated what sort of things the committee may look into, with the hope of giving useful suggestions. Foremost among the matters that deserve scrutiny are the oil companies' price adjustments. Consumer-oriented groups, such as the Consumer and Oil Price Watch, have questioned the justification of the increases, the latest of which amounted to a 60-centavo increase in the pump prices of gasoline and 50 for diesel. In addition, Perez has, on more than one occasion, bewailed the inability of his department to punish gasoline station owners caught overcharging customers. The law, as it stands, has allowed deregulation without adequate supervision.

No one in his right mind wants a return to the 1980s, when every oil price increase triggered massive street rallies and political unrest. No one with his feet planted firmly in reality is advocating a repeal of the law of supply and demand, either. A deregulated market, however, should foster competition in the interest of the consumer. But instead, as consumer groups have pointed out, the country is increasingly at the mercy of a virtual oil cartel.

In the past, the government used Petron as a foil to foreign oil companies. Since deregulation and the privatization of Petron, the company has joined the ranks of the big oil players. Players that have joined forces with the smaller oil companies to unilaterally, and jointly, decide oil prices as a group. In the face of the concerted action of the oil companies, both the public and the government have been reduced to impotence.

What are the government's alternatives? Heavy regulation is unwieldy, but unfettered deregulation is a recipe for obscene corporate profits at the expense of the entire economy. In these difficult times, it appears that the only endlessly profitable enterprises are fast-food outlets and gasoline stations. After all, people always need to eat, and in the modern age, people always need to use gas. The question is whether gas companies and station owners should have free rein to charge what they will.

We repeat that the intention of the Oil Deregulation Law was to promote competition to benefit the consumer. After a year or two of token competition, all pretenses at competition between the oil companies ceased. Instead of responding directly to the needs of consumers, the oil companies have required state guarantees and the intervention of the President to balance the requirements of the world market with their effects on local consumers.

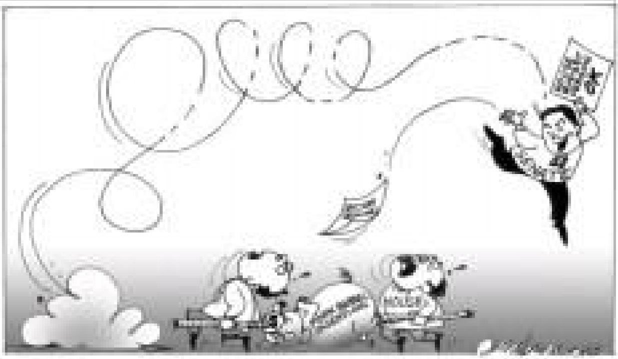
The Filipino people are fed up with price-fixing and gouging gas station operators as well as the government's inability to do more than slap them with token fines. Perez energetically took it upon himself to swoop down on profiteering gas stations, but those were merely morale-boosting, cosmetic, actions. No energy secretary should be devoting time to "padlocking" gas pumps with stickers; he should be behind his desk doing work with an industry-wide scope.

This early, Ms Arroyo and Perez should assure the public that once the committee evaluates the law, swift action would follow. In particular, the President's party leadership should already be mobilizing to ensure the smooth drafting and passage of amendments to the law. We cannot afford to have reforms recommended, only to end up withdrawn in Congress yet again. Political will is the only antidote to the millions of reasons oil companies bulging with cash can put in the way of much-needed remedial legislation.

Coordination

FOREIGN COMMENT

Daily Telegraph (London)



Del-Norte-Del-Sur virus

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Then and now

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Scrutinizing the Senate surprise



POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TV discombobulation



HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

Backgrounder to Mindanao



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

Gifted child

YOUNG BLOOD

Alida Fay Santos

Mind games

Karen Fastrapaio

Empowering the communities

Correct value of confiscated logs

LETTERS

Are DVDs, VCDs priced too high?

MATB taken within the law

Across the NATION

Davao exemption from log ban urged

Ilocos now rid of fake medicines, says DOH

Subic importers tell GMA: Don't kill us with duties



Cops foil plan to burn GenSan mall

ROUNDUP

Local official falls

Thieves steal wires



2 dead in collision

Soldier shot in ambush

Man, kid found dead

3 held for snatching



Pampanga gov loses 1st round of quarry battle

Saudi traders pay visit to Mindanao after blasts

By Germelina Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

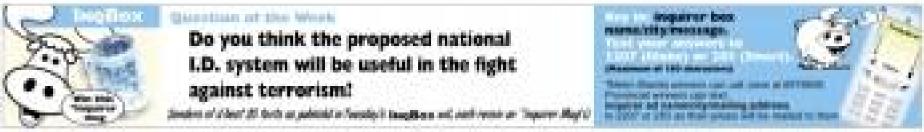
E. Samar inmates escape as guard buys food



SHADOWING PANAGBENGA
The shadows belong to pupils who prepared a gigantic mandala completely made of flowers during the celebration of Baguio City's Panagbenga Festival.

Power from solar system fully energizes Capiz

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau



INQUIRER Southern Luzon

'BALIKATAN-05'

From war games to civic projects

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Luisiana, Laguna

TO RESIDENTS of Barangay San Buenaventura in Luisiana, Laguna, the presence of American and Filipino soldiers is a welcome break from the monotony of daily activities.

Partnership

Amazing

Limited time



AMERICAN and Filipino soldiers rest their guns to work as masons and carpenters in putting up two school buildings in Luisiana, Laguna.



THIS time, it's an exchange of working styles for American and Filipino soldiers working on the roof of a school building.

216 Filipinos detained in 1st round of Malaysia crackdown

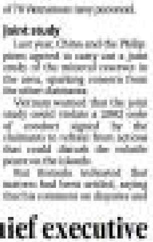


China, RP's new Big Brother, pledges military aid



RP flag in SanFo real but not original

Hong Kong chief executive expected to quit next week



EZ2 7 25 | SUERTRES 8 1 4 | FOUR DIGIT 1 4 5 4

METRO

MEGALOTTO 6/45 3 4 5 8 12 41 ₱6,071,654.40 | SWEEPSTAKES ₱100,000.00

DOJ docus to show Roldan lived it up

By Armand N. Nocum, Luige A. del Puerto and DJ Yap

SUSPECTED kidnap gang leader Dominic Roldan had allegedly lived beyond his means, and at one time lost about a hundred million pesos in a Las Vegas casino, according to reports reaching the Department of Justice.



ROLDAN



QUIET TIME

Census, curfew in Parañaque village

MMDA revives 2 traffic schemes

2 communist hit men tagged in ABS-CBN van burning

Judge trying a case already dropped

ON TARGET



Obet seeks support for 'Botika'

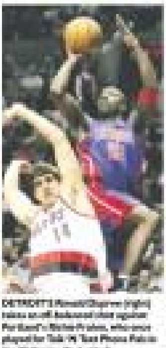
Lewis sparks Sonics rally



Mourning seals Miami comeback



MOURNING



Historic PBA Jakarta trip seen as a hit



CHENOWITH

Olympic body to honor Dayrit



DAYRIT

Twin UST kill in UAAP 67

Aguilar leads Revtex charge

FG backs Velo Challenge

SPORTSWATCH

Nadera virtual Palawan chess champ

DCP grants darters amnesty

MCC unveils two chess tilts

Adventists run targets Guinness record

Top NCA bets eye bigger lead

Annual summer derby slated

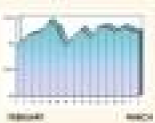
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

SMC reviews bid for Aussie dairy firm

CURRENCIES

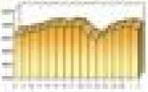
PESO-DOLLAR RATE



STOCK MARKET

Shares down on profit-taking for IPOs

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Group weighs options on Coastal Road project

Kiss and toll

BREAKTIME



Conrado R. Banal III

Coal use up in '04

By Abigail L. Ho

Group ...



DISCLOSURES

SMC reviews bid ...

STAKEHOLDERS' INVOLVEMENT

Foreign donors vow continued support for RP

Creditor backs LRT-1 capacity expansion

Petron putting up two 230-kv power substations



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Alsons, Sunfields start Batangas residential project

Trade alliance seeks tariff recalibration

Business

3 projects eye Bataan ecozone

By Russel M. Domingo

SOME P418 million in new investments are expected to go to the Bataan Technology Park Inc., including ventures engaged in cigarette production, motorcycle and vehicle assembly and medical facility.

BTPI president and chief executive Ofelia Y. Bulaong told reporters that an Iraqi firm, Amir Co., was laying out at least $7 million or about P380 million on a medical facility and jewelry factory.

Amir Co. owner Amir Al Alin, who is based in Michigan in the United States, is putting up a $6-million, 100-bed facility that would offer among others services in cosmetic surgery and spa amenities.

The businessman would also establish a $1-million facility for the production of export-quality jewelry.

Another anticipated venture to relocate [illegible] a P200-million cigarette factory in the economic zone.

A third project is the P16.75-million motorcycle and vehicle assembly project of local firm Greater Motor and Industrial Corp.

VENTING consumer gripes on air /C2

LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD

At chef Ed's pleasure

His masterpieces make up the funky repertoire at the Japanese restaurant Omakaze in Libis



CHEF ENOSA—the man behind the sugar maker



A DELICIOUS combo of sushi art

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras

PICKING a place to eat is tricky, especially if you're in search of a good Japanese restaurant. There are as many bad ones as good ones, and those that boast of excellence come with a chunky price tag to match.

In Libis, there's a little Japanese restaurant called Omakaze that takes pride in serving traditional and fusion dishes. Omakaze, literally translated, means "at the chef's pleasure," which is perhaps the best way to describe chef Ed [illegible] cuisine.

Chef Ed's skills were honed under Japanese chefs [illegible], his mentors at the famed [illegible] Restaurant (still one of my favorites) where he worked for over nine years. From [illegible], chefs Ed and [illegible] opened the [illegible] Japanese Restaurant (now known as [illegible]) along Pasay Road.

Talent and hard work took chef Ed to some of the most exotic kitchens of the world, in Middle East and later, along with his brother, [illegible] also an experienced sushi chef, to Bermuda. It was during his stint at the [illegible] restaurant in Bermuda that Ed's creativity was put to the test. Tourists who frequented the place asked for [illegible] variations on the traditional sushi theme, with a Western touch to boot. So the fusion of East and West began and the rest is history.

Today chef Ed's funky repertoire includes masterpieces that range from the Dynamic [illegible] and the American Dream (Deep Fried Sushi with salmon, [illegible]), to Spider Maki (shell crab), KO Rolls [illegible], Tofu Steak, all the way to the Dynamite [illegible]! Oh, and these are just my favorites. As far as his menu is concerned, there remains much to be discovered.

Cooking is a collective expression of one-

[illegible]





Monday, Monday so good to poor kids



Scandinavian delights



DINING OUT



Do you know why some traditional foods are gone?

Consumers can now go on the air with complaints

THE CONSUMER



Complaints

At chef Ed's pleasure

Onion Gravy

White Mushroom Gravy

Spanish Culinary Terms Part 4